• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XVI DECEMBER, 1949 NUMBER 12

Threat to California's Water Supply is Shown

The economic future of California hangs in the balance when Congress reconvenes this January, and all Californians must act now if they want to protect their Colorado River water supply.

That warning was sounded this month by Dr. Franklin Thomas, Director from Pasadena on the Board of the Metropolitan Water District and Chairman of the Colorado River Board of California.

"Southern California's use of Colorado River water has increased tremendously in the eight years that the Metropolitan Aqueduct has been in operation, and the Colorado River has now become the backbone of our economy." Director Thomas declared.

"If the proposed Central Arizona Project is enacted by Congress it would immediately throttle the growth and prosperity of the Southland, for this fantastic project would use water which would have to come from California's rightful share."

Concerted action by residents of the Southland in a letter writing campaign to their eastern friends, asking them in turn to enlist the support of their senators and representatives is one way that California can stop enactment of the proposed project and at the same time urge support for our bills which call for a settlement by the U. S. Supreme Court of the water controversy which has existed for 26 years, Director Thomas said.

"Our own congressional group, senators and representatives alike, regardless of party line, are completely unified for action in the coming battle, but we need the help and support of their fellow lawmakers from other states.

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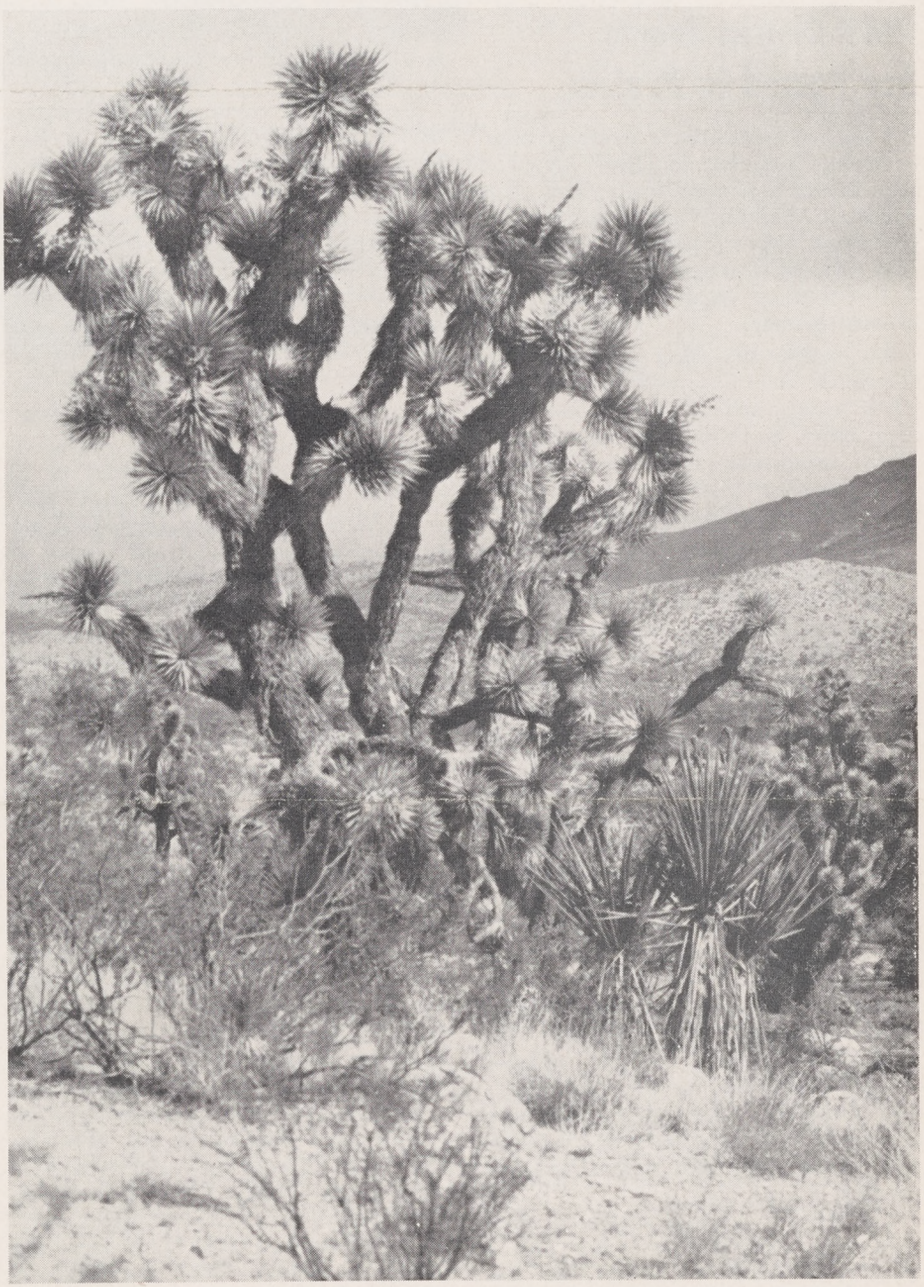

Typical of the desert at Christmastide is the photograph of the Cholla cactus shown silhouetted against the rugged countryside. This scene is representative of the territory traversed by the Metropolitan Aqueduct.

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1949 District Events Are Passed in Review

Southern California is drinking deeper from the Colorado River Aqueduct than it ever has in the eight years of its operation and the vital importance of protecting our supply of Colorado River water becomes increasingly clear as the calendar pages of the year 1949 become history.

To enable the Metropolitan Water District to keep pace with the Colorado River water needs of the 28 incorporated cities and other areas which it serves, extensive construction activity took place in 1949 together with the expansion of distribution facilities.

The biggest single construction job was the second unit expansion of the water softening and filtration plant which was completed in August. This $4,000,000 project doubles the capacity of the plant from 100 million to 200 million gallons per day. Dedication ceremonies attended by several hundred persons were held in August.

Three pipeline projects were started this year which together add more than 10 miles of distribution line. Longest of the three lines is that to the West Basin Municipal Water District, measuring 6.59 miles. Ground was broken for the line on Feb. 21, by Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and officials of the West Basin Municipal Water District and West Basin cities. Its cost will be about $1,600,000. As the year draws to a close, all pipe laying had been completed with only delivery structures and related equipment remaining to be finished.

The line is 45-inch diameter, steel reinforced concrete pipe and has a capacity of 35,000,000 gallons per day. Scheduled for completion early in 1950, it will serve Colorado River water to a population estimated at 175,000. The West Basin Municipal Water District includes the incorporated cities of El Segundo, Palos Verdes Estates, Gardena, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach.

The Victoria Street Lateral was started in September and will provide service to the city of Long Beach. Its capacity is 80,000,000 gallons per day. Costing $700,000, the three-mile-long 54-inch-diameter line will also be ready for service early next year. At the present time Long Beach has only one connection with the District's distribution system which provides a maximum of 20,000,000 gallons per day.

A mile-long line, which provides San Marino with a connection to the District's distribution system, was started in September and completed a month later. On Nov. 30 the cost of the line was $83,990, compared to the estimate of $85,000. The San Marino line is 16 inches in diameter and has a capacity of 6,000,000 gallons a day.

Emergency water sales starting in August were made to the city of Claremont and Claremont colleges and to the Orange County Water District by the Board of Directors. Orange County has purchased 11,000 acre feet and Claremont between 300 and 500 acre feet in accordance with contractual terms agreed upon.

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Chairman Jensen Returns From South American Trip

Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District returned to his duties on Dec. 1st after completing a month and a half tour of South America. Chairman Jensen left Los Angeles on Oct. 14, traveling by train to New York, where he and Mrs. Jensen embarked on the steamship "S.S. Brazil."

Included on his itinerary was Trinidad, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Montevideo and Buenos Aires. The total journey covered 12,848 miles and was a pleasant and interesting experience, he reported.

He noted, in commenting on his trip, that a water shortage existed in Rio. Lack of water pressure makes it necessary for large buildings to pump water to the upper floors. People there regularly fill their bathtubs so that they will have an ample supply for the day.

During Chairman Jensen's absence, the functions of his District office were handled by the Vice Chairman, Warren Butler, of Compton.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief engineer Julian Hinds, filed December 1949, covering District operations for November 1949.)

Construction — Final contract payment to the Wucetich Construction Company for the San Marino line was made on Nov. 29. Cost on Nov. 30 was $83,990.12, compared to an estimated cost of $85,000.

All pipe laying on the West Basin line was completed Oct. 28, with construction of structures and related equipment continuing during November.

Pipe laying on the Victoria Street Lateral is 83 per cent complete, consisting of 12,192 linear feet.

Hoover Dam—Delivery of energy to the Edison lines totalled 19,771,730 kwhr. Peak delivery was 104,500 kw. The water level at Lake Mead dropped 4.24 feet to elevation 1176.96 feet with a decrease in storage of 560,000 acre feet. The average discharge at Hoover Dam was 17,100 cfs compared with 19,000 in October.

Parker Dam—During the month the water level at Lake Havasu fluctuated between a high elevation of 447.7 feet and a low of 444.5. The average discharge of the Colorado at Parker Dam was 16,900 cfs compared to 18,900 in October. Peak delivery to the Parker system was 44,000 kw.

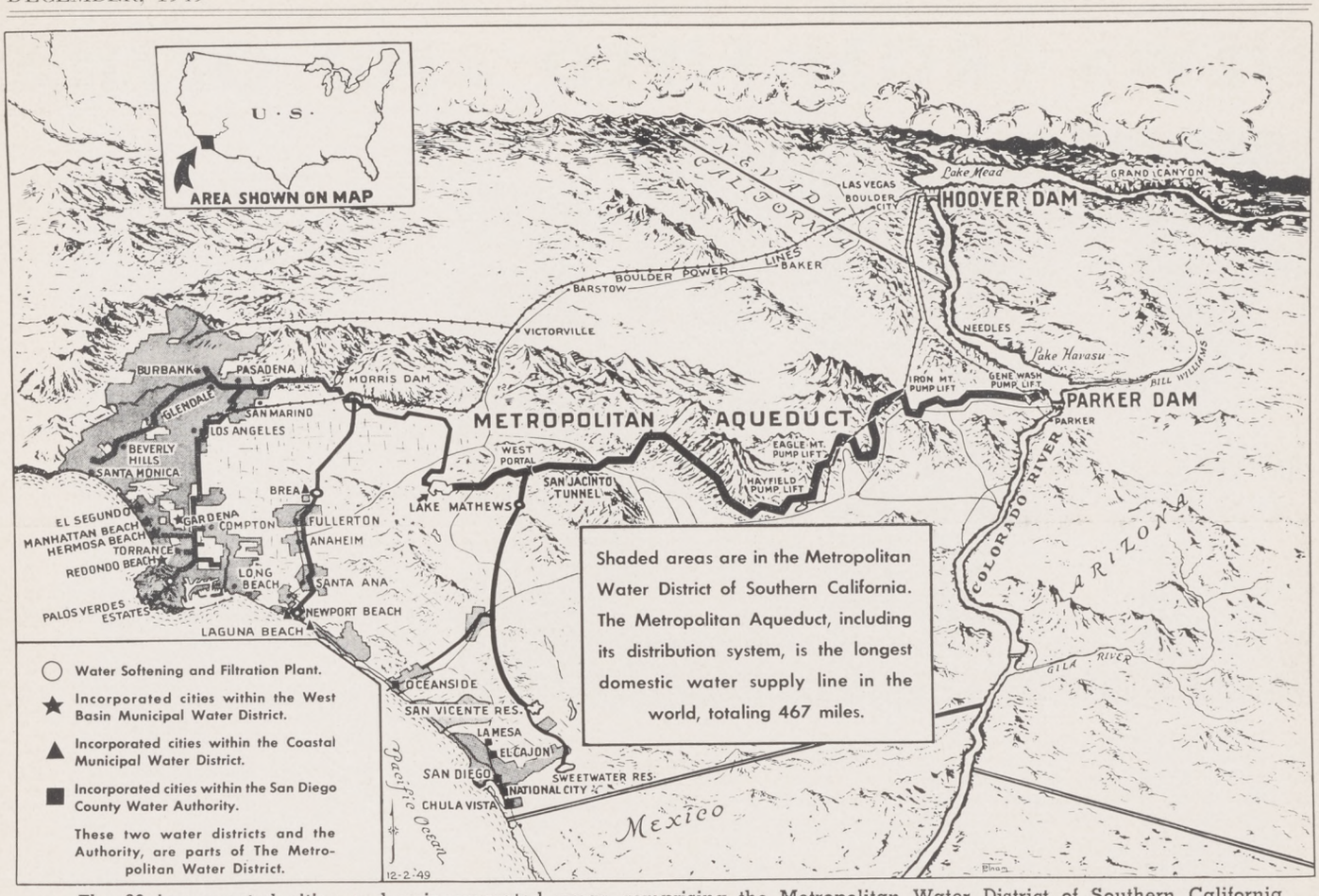
Pumping—Pumping with one unit per plant was continuous throughout the month of November.

Distribution—On Nov. 30 the water level of Lake Mathews was at an elevation of 1,351.68 feet, representing a usable storage of 93,237 acre feet, a decrease for the month of 496 acre feet.

Colorado river water was softened from an average hardness of 319 parts per million to 126 at an average rate of 80.1 cfs. The inflow to the plant varied from a minimum of 50.4 cfs to a maximum of 117.9. During November, Burbank, Glendale and San Marino did not take Colorado river water.

Water Sales—Total sales including surplus water averaged 213.8 cfs in November and have averaged 257.8 cfs this fiscal year to date. Softened water sales averaged 79.4 cfs.

Purchasing—During the month 300 purchase orders and one purchase agreement totalling $23,570 were written.



The 28 incorporated cities and unincorporated areas comprising the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California are shown above in a newly revised map. The map also shows the route of the Metropolitan Aqueduct, including its distribution system. Water from the aqueduct system is threatened by the so-called Central Arizona Project that seeks to invade California's rightful share of Colorado River water. The Arizona Project would cost an estimated minimum of $738,000,000 and would be a direct lien against all taxpayers in the United States. The Arizona Project and the California resolutions calling for a settlement of the long standing controversy between the two states will become active again next month when Congress reconvenes.

1949 Reviewed

(Continued from Page Two)

Despite the large program of construction, the Board of Directors did not increase the District's tax rate, and it remains at 34 cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation for the fiscal year 1949-1950.

During the first five months of the fiscal year which began July 1, 1949, total water sales were 2,317,000,000 gallons greater than for the same period of the previous year. This represents an increase of 10 per cent.

The Board voted in July to notify the San Diego County Water Authority that the annexation of the city of Escondido had its informal approval. Escondido's water needs would be serviced through the Authority.

Modified terms that are henceforth to prevail in the annexation of new territories to the Metropolitan Water District were adopted by the Board of Directors in July. At the same time, the Board voted to notify Pomona and Ontario areas that it was prepared to resume negotiations in connection with the informal annexation applications of those areas.

Consideration is to be given to all applications of eligible areas now pending before the Board, the modified policy provided. The present financial terms provide that the annexing area will be given the option to pay all "back taxes" at the time it is annexed to the District, or pay the total sum due at the date of annexation over a period of 30 years, with interest on the unpaid balance at three per cent.

The District Board fixes other conditions relating to the delivery of Colorado River water at the time it approves an annexation application.

In January of this year Director Joseph Jensen was elected Chairman, and Director Warren Butler Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors. Mr. Jensen is a Los Angeles Director and Mr. Butler represents Compton. Retiring Chairman was John H. Ramboz of San Marino. A. H. Allen, the Director representing Santa Ana, was reelected Secretary of the Board.

James M. Luney, who had been in charge of the Controller's office since 1930, retired on January 31. His successor, appointed by the Board of Directors, was A. W. McKinlay, who started with the District in 1932 as Accountant and who was made Chief Accountant in 1933.

As 1949 draws to a close, the population of the Metropolitan Water District is estimated at nearly 4,000,000.

Future in Balance

(Continued from Page One)

"It is to their interest to oppose the Central Arizona Project for it would saddle a billion dollar tax bill on the taxpayers of the nation who are already subsidizing many of the crops being grown on the desert farm land which is asking for this huge gift."

More than half of the acreage to receive the water is owned by only 420 large landowners who would each benefit by over a half million dollars by the project, it was pointed out.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

The youngsters at Iron Mountain recently held a costume party and from the appearances of the boy on the far right in the banditto outfit, he forced someone to take the picture, eh, Senor? Left to right are, Joan Dussaman, Kay Sams, Diane Le Doux, Judy Renstrom, Patsy Borchardt, Susan Walters, Linda Dussaman and Ralph Hoover.

Owen Crawley was elected president and W. R. Gowenlock secretary of Group Two of the Employees Association. Other members of Group Two are John Bone and Tom Cain. Group Two consists of all field employees from the east portal of San Jacinto tunnel to the coast, including the shop employees at the softening plant.

Group Three elected John Powell as its president and Barrett Brooks as secretary. Other members are David Smith and Dale Batchelor. Group Three consists of softening plant employees including grove employees but not including shop employees.

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On Dec. 5th the folks at Eagle Mountain staged a dinner in honor of the people at the Hayfield pumping station. This was a return party. Walt Roys reports a fine time was had by all.

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Ensign Bob Fields is a guest at Eagle Mountain for the holidays, staying at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Fields. Bob is a student of naval aviation, regularly stationed at Pensacola, Florida.

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The womenfolk at Eagle Mountain planned a Christmas season party which was held on Dec. 28 in the camp mess hall.

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Eddie Dussaman and his wife and family plan to spend the holidays at her folks' place near Crossroads. The camp at Iron Mountain on Christmas Day will be deserted except for the Taylor, Thompson and Le Doux families who stand watch on regular days-off.

Most of the folks will journey to the city for a holiday with friends and relatives but will get back to Iron Mountain in time for a big New Year's party.

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The folks all along the aqueduct are holiday minded and the youngsters are reported on their best behavior, awaiting the holiday season. A party for the teen-agers at Gene Camp was held Dec. 17 at the mess hall under the auspices of the Parker School.

On the 23rd a party was held for the children at the camp. George Irwin and Bill Ralph arranged a special visit from Santa Claus for the kiddies. On Jan. 17 a smorgasbord lunch is planned for the grown-ups, to climax the holiday season. Both these activities are sponsored by the Gene Lake Club. George Irwin is chairman of the recreation committee.

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Interest in rifle practice has been revived at Hayfield and several shoots have been held this month with more planned in the future. Among those who fire their .22 calibre rifles on the specially built range are, Charley Fraker, Rolland Bushey, James Chapman, Dale Malquist, Clifford Draper, Gordon Shoen and Bill Ralph. Bill reports that in the last shoot the prize money, which is donated by the participants, was given to the Salvation Army.

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Johnny Powell, Maintenance Mechanic at the softening plant, was a proud man this month as he passed out cigars and candy to the staff on the occasion of his becoming a grandfather for the first time.

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A beautiful Christmas tree has been set up in the rotunda of the softening plant by the employees. The tree has been decorated and was the scene of a party on Dec. 23. Names were exchanged by the employees and each bought someone a novelty gift of some sort. Cake, candy, ice cream and coffee were served by the ladies after a special visit by Santa Claus.

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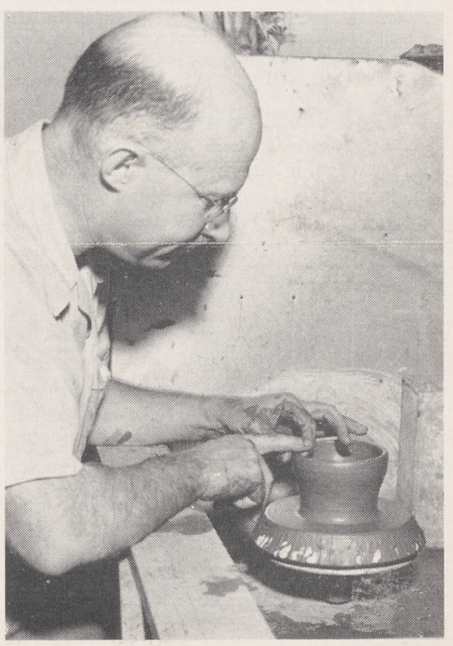
Folks at the Los Angeles office held a Christmas party the afternoon of December 23rd. The event featured a ham and turkey luncheon.



Dr. Ralph S. Russell, the District's physician and surgeon stationed at Gene Camp, is shown here at the potter's wheel installed in his home. A number of women at Gene Camp have also become ceramic enthusiasts.